

ball-of-light international data exchange

BOLIDE



co-ordinator

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Dear contributors,

As I see it, there are two chief ways in which 'Bolide' can contribute to our understanding of bol phenomena :

First, by chronicling cases. Though most tend to duplicate one another, there is always the hope that some detail, hidden in the account, may provide a significant clue. So I hope you aren't too bored by reading report after report on, say, the Marfa lights. I presume we are all accomplished skimmers and can rush through the accounts till our attention is caught by some unusual feature.

Second, by extending the range of cases, to include phenomena on, or even beyond, the boundaries of the 'classic' bol in its familiar 'something-like-ball-lightning' manifestation.

Much of this fringe material may turn out to be irrelevant : but that, too, is part of the function of 'Bolide' - to act as a kind of sorting office where we can evaluate what is and what isn't relevant.

All this is leading up to the fact that I am not going to apologise for including some very marginal material in this dossier. I do apologise to any of you who subscribe to the SPR Journal for taking up so much of the dossier with Alvarado's article ; but I felt that even though much of it is clearly outside our frame of reference, it was best left as a whole for you to pick out the bits that interest you.

No less valuable, in its way, is the material from Rogers' 1853 publication **The Philosophy of mysterious agents**, a truly remarkable book which is one of the earliest to recognise the relevance of electromagnetic forces to anomalous human behavior. I strongly recommend you to read the whole book if you can find it, for even if Rogers' ideas are inevitably askew in the light of subsequent research, the mental paths he trod to formulate his ideas are ones we will find it instructive to follow - and he has the great virtue of illustrating his text at every stage with relevant stories about electric girls and so on, some of which I have not encountered elsewhere.

All good wishes

Hilary

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